

Proposed Purchase by the Town of Colchester – 95 Norwich Ave.

(Current location of Colchester's Senior Center)

Reason for Purchase

- Property is owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees.
- Bacon Academy Board of Trustees is selling the property.
- The building will stay as the Senior Center until a new Senior Center (SRC) can be built. (3 to 5 year process)
- This ensures no interruption of Senior services and programs.

Cost to Taxpayers

- \$275,000
- No new taxpayer dollars and no increase to the mill rate.
- Money will come from the undesignated general fund balance.
- The Town Charter, in conjunction with the Fund Balance Policy, permits a onetime capital expenditure.

Next Steps

- Purchase is the first step in the process to build a new Senior Center (SRC).
- The property has reuse value to the town once the new SRC is complete.
- SRC Subcommittee will recommend a location for a new SRC.
- Board of Selectman appoints a Building Committee to design a new SRC.

Sponsored by the Senior Center Subcommittee

Dear Colchester Voters,

On Wednesday, August 10th at 7 PM, First Selectman Art Shilosky and the Senior Center (SRC) Subcommittee will be hosting an informational meeting to discuss and answer questions on the proposed purchase of 95 Norwich Avenue (location of our current Senior Center) by the Town of Colchester. In September 2015, the Board of Selectman (BOS) charged the SRC Subcommittee with developing and finding a location for a new SRC facility.

The subcommittee consists of 2 members of the Board of Selectman (Rosemary Coyle, Stan Soby), Board of Finance (Tom Kane, Andreas Bisbikos) and Commission on Aging (Eleanor Phillips, Marjorie Mlodzinski). Our first task, the reason for the proposed purchase, has been to secure the property at 95 Norwich Avenue, owned by the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees. The Trustees are selling the property. With the Town's purchase, the Town would ensure that the building would stay as the Senior Center until a new SRC could be built (3 to 5 year process). It would also ensure no interruption of Senior services and programs throughout the process.

The cost to the taxpayers of Colchester is \$275,000 and the money will come from Colchester's undesignated general fund balance. Since the Town Charter, in conjunction with the Fund Balance Policy, permits onetime capital expenditures by the Town, there will be no new taxpayer dollars and no increase to the mill rate to complete this purchase.

The purchase is the first step in the process to build a new Senior Center. After which, the Subcommittee would recommend a location for a SRC and upon acceptance, the BOS would appoint a building committee.

We encourage you to attend our informational meeting, ask questions, and understand the importance of this decision. We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Coyle, Chair
Senior Center Subcommittee